Electronic Version
Stylesheet Version v1.1.1

Claims

[c1] 1. A bicycle derailleur adapted to be mounted to a bicycle frame, wherein the derailleur comprises:
a bracket adapted to be mounted to the frame;
a base member supported by the bracket;
a chain guide;
a coupling mechanism coupled between the base member and the chain guide so that the chain guide moves relative to the base member; and
wherein the base member is supported at first and second lateral locations, and wherein the bracket supports at least one of the first and second lateral locations of the base member.

[c2] 2. The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the first and second lateral locations of the base member are opposite to each other.

[c3] 3. The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the bracket supports the first and second lateral locations of the base member.

[c4] 4. The derailleur according to claim 3 wherein the first and second lateral locations of the base member are op-

posite to each other.

[c5] 5. The derailleur according to claim 4 wherein the bracket straddles the first and second lateral locations of the base member.

[c6] 6. The derailleur according to claim 5 wherein the first and second lateral locations of the base member face away from each other.

[c7] 7. The derailleur according to claim 6 wherein the bracket comprises:
a first mounting portion facing the first lateral location of the base member; and
a second mounting portion facing the second lateral location of the base member; and
wherein the base member is mounted on a mounting shaft that extends between the first mounting portion of the bracket and the second mounting portion of the bracket.

[c8] 8. The derailleur according to claim 7 wherein the bracket comprises:
a first member having the first mounting portion; and
a second member having the second mounting portion.

[c9] 9. The derailleur according to claim 6 further comprising a tubular reinforcing member disposed around the

mounting shaft, wherein the tubular reinforcing member has a first end face that faces the first mounting portion of the bracket and a second end face that faces the second mounting portion of the bracket.

[c10] 10. The derailleur according to claim 4 wherein the first and second lateral locations of the base member straddle the bracket.

[c11] 11. The derailleur according to claim 10 wherein the base member comprises:
a first mounting portion facing a first lateral location of the bracket; and
a second mounting portion facing a second lateral location of the bracket; and
wherein the bracket is mounted on a mounting shaft that extends between the first mounting portion of the base member and the second mounting portion of the base member.

[c12] 12. The derailleur according to claim 11 wherein the first and second lateral locations of the base member face towards each other.

[c13] 13. The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the bracket is located at the first lateral location of the base member, and wherein the second lateral location of the

base member is adapted to be supported by the bicycle frame.

[c14] 14. The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the bracket is adapted to be mounted by a fastener to the frame.

[c15] 15. The derailleur according to claim 14 wherein the fastener is adapted to mount the bracket to a wheel hub axle.

[c16] 16. The derailleur according to claim 1 further comprising a turnstop projection adapted to engage the bracket with a mounting recess formed in the frame.

[c17] 17. The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the coupling mechanism comprises a link mechanism adapted to be connected to a shift cable assembly so that the link mechanism moves in response to movement of the shift cable.

[c18] 18. The derailleur according to claim 17 wherein the shift cable assembly comprises an inner wire that slides within an outer casing, and wherein the coupling mechanism comprises:
a first link member having a first end and a second end;
a second link member having a first end and a second end;

wherein the first end of the first link member is pivotably coupled to the base member;
wherein the first end of the second link member is pivotably coupled to the base member;
an inner wire mounting unit disposed one of the first and second link members for mounting the inner wire of the shift cable assembly;
a movable member supporting the chain guide;
wherein the second end of the first link member is pivotably coupled to the movable member;
wherein the second end of the second link member is pivotably coupled to the movable member; and
a biasing member that biases the movable member relative to the base member.

[c19] 19. The derailleur according to claim 18 further comprising an outer casing mounting unit disposed on the base member for mounting the outer casing of the shift cable assembly.

[c20] 20. The derailleur according to claim 1 further comprising a positioning actuator mechanism disposed on the base member for moving the chain guide relative to the base member.

[c21] 21. The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the chain guide pivots around a first axis, and wherein the base

member is coupled to the bracket so that the base member pivots around a second axis substantially parallel to the first axis.

[c22] 22. The derailleur according to claim 21 further comprising a biasing mechanism that biases the base member relative to the bracket in one of a clockwise and a counterclockwise direction when viewed laterally outwardly from the base member.

[c23] 23. The derailleur according to claim 22 further comprising a rotation restriction mechanism that restricts rotation of the base member in the other one of the clockwise and counterclockwise directions.

[c24] 24. The derailleur according to claim 23 wherein the rotation restriction mechanism comprises a shock absorber.

[c25] 25. The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the base member is nonrotatably coupled relative to the bracket.

[c26] 26. The derailleur according to claim 1 further comprising a mounting shaft adapted to mount the base member to the frame at a location different from a wheel hub axle.

[c27] 27. A bracket for a rear derailleur comprising:

a first bracket body comprising:

a first upper mounting portion structured to attach to a rear dropout portion of a bicycle frame; and

a first lower mounting portion structured to extend over a first lateral side location of a rear derailleur when the first upper mounting portion is attached to the rear dropout portion.

[c28] 28. The bracket according to claim 27 wherein the first upper mounting portion includes an opening structured to receive a wheel hub axle therethrough.

[c29] 29. The bracket according to claim 27 wherein the first upper mounting portion includes an opening structured to receive a fastener therethrough for attaching the first bracket body to the rear dropout portion of the bicycle frame at a location offset from a wheel hub axle.

[c30] 30. The bracket according to claim 27 wherein the first upper mounting portion is laterally offset from the first lower mounting portion.

[c31] 31. The bracket according to claim 27 further comprising a second bracket body, wherein the second bracket body comprises:

a second upper mounting portion structured to attach to the rear dropout portion of the bicycle frame; and

a second lower mounting portion structured to extend over a second lateral side location of the rear derailleur when the second upper mounting portion is attached to the rear dropout portion.

[c32] 32. The bracket according to claim 31 wherein the first bracket body is separate from the second bracket body.

[c33] 33. The bracket according to claim 31 wherein the first lower mounting portion is spaced apart from the second lower mounting portion.

[c34] 34. The bracket according to claim 33 wherein the first lower mounting portion is spaced apart from the second lower mounting portion sufficient to receive a base member of the derailleur therein.

[c35] 35. The bracket according to claim 33 wherein the first and second upper mounting portions each includes an opening structured to receive a wheel hub axle therethrough.

[c36] 36. The bracket according to claim 33 wherein the first and second upper mounting portions each includes an opening structured to receive a fastener therethrough for attaching the first and second bracket bodies to the rear dropout portion of the bicycle frame at a location offset from a wheel hub axle.

[c37] 37. The bracket according to claim 33 wherein the first upper mounting portion is laterally offset from the first lower mounting portion.

[c38] 38. The bracket according to claim 33 wherein the first upper mounting portion faces the second upper mounting portion, and wherein the first lower mounting portion faces the second lower mounting portion.